

RUST, CEROTELIUM FICI (BUTL.) ARTH. ON FIG, FICUS CARICA L.

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The fig is native to Carica in Asia Minor and was first reported growing in Florida at Saint Augustine in 1579. Rust is the most common disease of fig in Florida.

Fig rust occurs on the leaves, mostly during the latter part of the summer. When infestation becomes severe, the leaves turn yellowish to brown and fall. The disease is recognized by the numerous small, raised, reddish-brown spots covered with a golden-yellow powder (the **rust** spores), which are on the under surface of the leaves. On the upper surface of the leaves, the small spots are dark brown and more or less smooth (Fig. 1).

Since the disease is found on the leaves and does not actually attack the fruit, the damage resulting from it may not seem severe. However, the production of fruit is directly dependent on the foliage, and if the foliage is kept free from the disease, a larger crop of better quality fruit usually will be produced.

CONTROL. Rake up and burn or bury diseased leaves. No approved fungicide for figs.

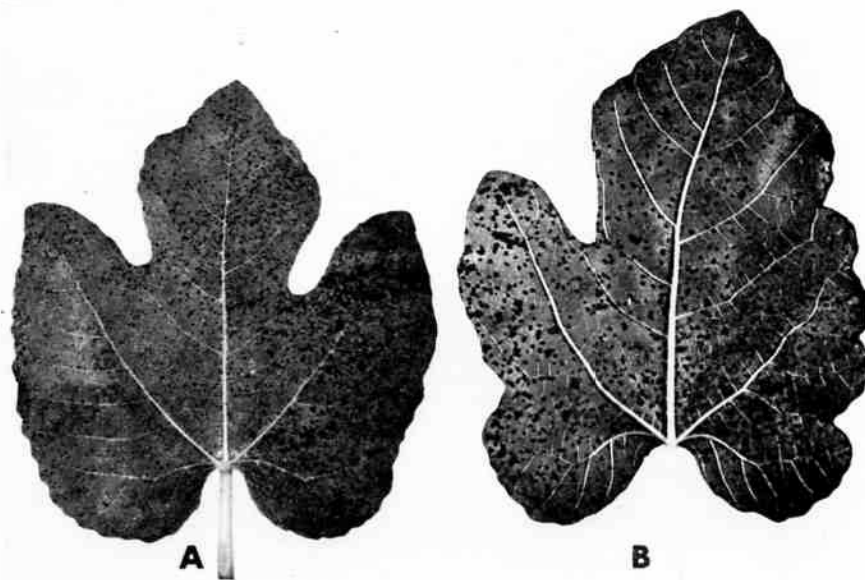


Figure 1. Top (A), and bottom (B) surfaces of fig leaf infected with rust, Cerotelium fici (Butl.) Arth.

References

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